

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 3-7 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0082]-[0084] and [0087].

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0101532 to Takayama et al.; rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0011736 to Dierickx in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,781,178 to Shizukuishi and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0036300 to Pain et al.; rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dierickx in view of Shizukuishi and Pain; and rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dierickx in view of Shizukuishi and Takayama. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action appears to recognize that the applied references do not disclose or suggest the operational features of the control unit and the clear transistor recited in claims 1 and 2. However, the Office Action asserts that claims directed to an apparatus must distinguish from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended, as outlined above, to recite structural features of the clear transistor. The applied references do not disclose or suggest these structural features. In particular, Takayama, Dierickx, Shizukuishi and Pain, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest an insulated-gate clear transistor having a threshold voltage and a source voltage, the source voltage indicative of a number of carriers accumulated in the accumulation period, a control unit setting the clear transistor to an 'on' state when the source voltage exceeds the sum of a predetermined voltage and the threshold voltage, as recited in claims 1 and 2.

For at least the above reason, the applied references do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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